

## Benjamin Franklin House

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**From:** Benjamin Franklin House Team [team@benjaminfranklinhouse.org]  
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**To:** info@benjaminfranklinhouse.org  
**Subject:** Benjamin Franklin House 2007 eGazette - 4th Quarter Review



Above left, A rapt audience in Franklin's Parlour during the 2007 Benjamin Franklin House Family Holiday Event

Above right, Young artists from local school Surrey Square have their interpretations of Franklin's Creativity on display at Craven Street

### Benjamin Franklin House eGazette 2007 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

Dear Friends,

One December (1767) at Craven Street, in a letter to the *London Chronicle*, Benjamin Franklin declared himself "a well-wisher of mankind." At this festive and reflective time of year it is a quality to which we might all aspire. In the piece, Franklin outlined the close relationship between Britain and America. He noted in his past US travels he had never met anyone with "one grain of disaffection to their brethren in Britain."

As we complete our second year as a dynamic museum and educational facility, Benjamin Franklin House is once again a drawing point for good relations between the two countries. Our Board and staff comprise individuals of both nations, and we have succeeded in bringing together people on both sides of the Atlantic. One recent example is agreement by The US Ambassador to the Court of St James, Robert H. Tuttle, and the British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Nigel Sheinwald, to serve as Honorary Co-Chairmen of our endowment campaign - a fund needed to secure the long-term future of the building and its educational aims.

As detailed in the highlights from the 4th quarter below, the House is a beacon of good will. Franklin would be pleased.

### Educational Outreach

\* Benjamin Franklin House Family Holiday Day: Joy filled Benjamin Franklin's parlour during the 2007 Family Holiday Day in December. With their parents, young people listened to tales of Christmas in the 18th century, made festive decorations, and enjoyed seasonal treats.

\* Art Project on Display: We are currently showcasing art created by students from inner city London school, Surrey Square Primary. The young artists aged 9 and 10 took as their theme Franklin's Creativity and their colourful works are being seen by all visitors to Craven Street - and

also online at [www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](http://www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

## Events

\* Neighbourhood Christmas: We opened our door to friends and neighbours in December. Good cheer - mulled wine and mince pies - abounded and as well as good ideas, including plans for a 2008 concert in the House with the Concordia Foundation, located on the street, which supports the aspirations of young musicians.

## Coming Soon

\* Franklin 302nd Birthday Lecture. Barry Sheerman MP, head of the House of Commons' Education and Skills Committee, will speak on heritage and education

Thursday, 17 January 2008, 1.00pm

Benjamin Franklin Room, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N

Tickets free: RSVP [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

\* Franklin and the Antarctic. Fulbright Scholar Paul Arthur Berkman will share insight into his latest Antarctic research, a topic that would have interested in Franklin, an early ecologist passionate about anti-pollution and energy efficiency

Thursday, 21 February 2008, 6.30pm

Benjamin Franklin House, 36 Craven Street, London WC2N

Tickets £5 (£3 for Friends of Benjamin Franklin House) which includes lecture and reception. RSVP [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

## Benjamin Franklin House in the News

\* Benjamin Franklin House was highlighted in a speech to the *World Affairs Council* by Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Kurt Volker:

"Two weeks ago, I happened to be in London and visited the Franklin House...where Ben Franklin actually lived. He went to London to seek to build better understanding between the crown and the colonies, and to prevent war. In a sense, this building was America's first Embassy. And it is a place Philadelphians would be proud of, because it captures Ben Franklin's personal history, his whimsy, his diplomatic contributions, and his passion for scientific discovery, with a few hands-on things for kids. ...Given the special connection of Franklin in Philadelphia, I would encourage the World Affairs Council to take a special interest in the Franklin House in London."

\* Benjamin Franklin House was featured in *Event Magazine* in an article on new members of Unique Venues of London, a prestigious organisation which promotes special locations in the capital. To find out about using the House for a private event in 2008, contact us at [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org).

## Challenge Grant Reached

Mr. Robert H. Smith, for whom our Scholarship Centre at the top of the House is named, gave us a \$100,000 Challenge earlier this year: if we could raise \$200,000 in new funding, he would contribute \$100,000 toward the House's operational expenses. I'm pleased to report we reached this sum in December through gifts from foundations and individuals! It costs about \$45,000 per month to deliver all our offerings including the Historical Experience and the Student Science Centre so such support is essential.

There are many ways you can help: become a Friend of the House, contribute to our endowment fund, use the House for private entertainment, and/or volunteer! Contact me at any time to find out more.

We look forward to an exciting New Year at Benjamin Franklin House and wish you the best

greetings of the season,

Márcia

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PS If we have your mailing address you will soon find our annual hard copy edition of the Craven Street Gazette in your post!